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PATENT
81476 025 5373

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:)
AVITAL et al.)
Serial No: 09/852,458)
Filed: May 9, 2001)
For: METHOD FOR THE ISOLATION OF)
STEM CELLS BY IMMUNO-LABELING WITH)
HLA/MHC GENE PRODUCT MARKER)

Art Unit: 1632
Examiner: Thaian N. Ton

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:
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RESPONSE TO REQUIREMENT FOR ELECTION OF SPECIES

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified application, please consider the following remarks.

REMARKS

Claims 1-42 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-36 are directed to methods for the isolation of stem cells based upon non-expression of β_2 -microglobulin (" β_2m "), and claims 37-42 are directed to an isolated stem cell that does not express β_2m . Stem cell markers are utilized in various embodiments of the invention to aid in